

CORYELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
THE STATE OF TEXAS

County Judge  
Honorable John E. Firth

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May 6, 2008

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Mr. Buzbee,

The Counsel from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality effectively argued in State Court (TCEQ Docket No 2008-0099-MIS) on May 1, 2008 that Coryell County will experience critical groundwater problems and should be included in a designated Priority Groundwater Management Area.

Although this TCEQ case is confined to the priority management of groundwater, the reality as stated on page 2 of the TCEQ study, Exhibit 2, is that "protecting existing groundwater supplies is a critical issue for these groundwater users because the delivery of alternative surface supplies is not projected to be economically feasible." Since the management of surface and ground water must be effectively coordinated to ensure the most optimal solution, as I discussed at the April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Brazos G Scope of Work Committee meeting, a study of Coryell County requirements and availability options would be most helpful to determine how best to ensure that critical water availability issues are addressed. This would be particularly helpful for Coryell County since we are a State declared "economically disadvantaged County" and have few resources to undertake a study ourselves.

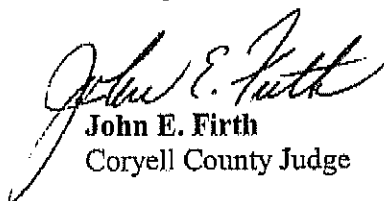
The greatest long term concern for Coryell County is that the area of greatest future growth, the Southwestern part of the County is an area that has the greatest challenge regarding the ability to provide future surface water growing demand. The Multi-County Water Supply Company has some unique legal and financial challenges and as announced at their general meeting last week, they will soon reach the limit of their water rights availability. Given that this area is also an area that is currently being challenged with new groundwater requirements because of the limits that Multi-County Water Supply Company can expand its infrastructure, it will complicate what is already known to be a critical water challenge.

Long term, since the Western part of Coryell County is provided with surface water from Lake Proctor (via Hamilton City, Upper Leon, and the BRA), the lack of another surface option to support that part of the County (as well as Southeastern Hamilton County and Northeastern Lampasas County) could transition the current challenge into a crisis if the water source from two counties away at Lake Proctor is ever limited or compromised. One surface water option over the

next decades could be to reconsider what I am told was an Army Corps of Engineers recommendation about twenty-five years ago to put a dam on Cowhouse Creek either in Coryell or Hamilton County. This project could not only address a potentially serious challenge in this part of Texas but also provide for a backup for support of Fort Hood if their existing water source was ever compromised.

At the April 16<sup>th</sup> Scope of Work Committee meeting, the action to approve a final recommendation for studies to be recommended to the full Region G board was slipped until the next meeting with a request that any additional requests for study to be provided in early May for staff review and consideration. In light of the TCEQ evidentiary hearing last week and new information regarding the status of the Multi-County Water Supply Company to be able to provide expanded water support to a three county area, request that consideration be given to re-look the past Corps of Engineers study and consider the viability and advisability to again look at the option to construct a surface water source on the Cowhouse Creek.

Thanks for your consideration in studying this challenging water availability issue. As discussed recently, we also welcome the opportunity to meet with BRA and TWDB to discuss possible near term options to address these issues.



**John E. Firth**  
Coryell County Judge

cc: Mr. David Dunn  
Mr. Scott Mack  
Mr. Scott Diermann